

Obituaries

Joe Jacobs

Joseph Alvin Jacobs, 89, of Charleston, passed away at 7:50 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2023, surrounded by his wife and loved ones, at his daughter's residence in Lawrenceville.

Visitation was held Friday, April 7, at the Edwards Funeral Home, Arcola. Funeral services were held Saturday, April 8, at the Edwards Funeral Home. Burial was in the Cartwright Cemetery in rural Tuscola. Tim Jacobs, Jordan Philpott, Jonathan Jacobs, Cierra Philpott, Jenna Jacobs and Caden Daugherty served as pallbearers with Jeffrey Fitzgerald and Evan Daugherty serving as honorary pallbearers.

Joe was born on May 28, 1933, in Ficklin. He was the son of Ivan Edward and Goldia Cleo (Romine) Jacobs. He married Mary Joan Breen Laley on May 15, 1965, in Tuscola.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joanie Jacobs of Charleston; seven children, Carolyn Wartars of Hillsboro, Steven Jacobs of Indianapolis, Ind., Joseph Jacobs (Kathy) of Sulphur, Ky., Michael Jacobs of Tuscola, Kathryn Fitzgerald (Jeffrey) of Indianapolis, Ind., Rodney Jacobs of Indianapolis, Ind., and Melinda Daugherty (Doug) of Lawrenceville; one step-daughter, Jennifer Madlem (Russ) of Charleston;

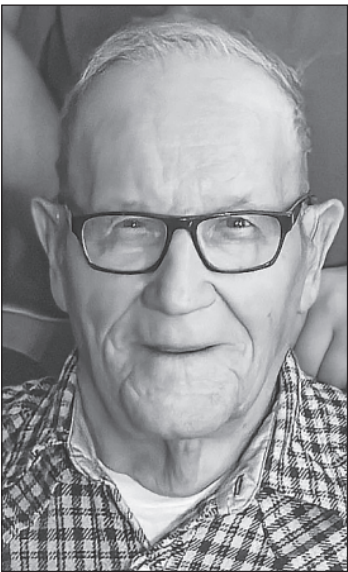
20 grandchildren, Doug Wartars (Brittney), Amy Lemons (Seth), Ryan Jacobs, Timothy Jacobs (Angela), Sarah Rhodes, Joseph Jacobs II, Scott Jacobs, Nathan Jacobs (Jennifer), Jonathan Jacobs, Jenna Jacobs, Kali Bonanni, Matthew Jacobs, Alyssa Jacobs, Olivia Jacobs, Alex Jacobs, Victoria Darnall (Tyler), Jordan Philpott (Stephanie), Cierra Philpott, Caden Daugherty, and Evan Daugherty; seven step-grandchildren, Cameron Fitzgerald (Jessica), Jerrica Reimer (Aaron) Kyle Fitzgerald, Devin Fitzgerald, Heather Mann, Holly Pullen, and Heath Madlem; 22 great grandchildren; and one brother, Jerry Jacobs of Tuscola.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and nine siblings, Mary Richardson, Marie Dallas, Peg Burcham, Leota Dallas, James Jacobs, Betty Rankins, Nancy Hanners, Herman Jacobs and Gene Jacobs.

Joe worked as a carpenter in the Tuscola and Atwood area for many years. He retired as a conductor from the Union Pacific Railroad in Villa Grove in 1998 with over 30 years of service.

Joe enjoyed coon hunting and "running beagles;" he also enjoyed fishing, horseback riding, and hunting mushrooms.

He was an avid bluegrass fan; he played the guitar and



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sang bluegrass in his band as well. He never knew a stranger, and it did not take long for Joe to strike up a conversation and tell a story or two. Joe always looked forward to family gatherings, especially having his grandchildren and great-grandchildren around. Whether going to their sporting events, or getting them riled up at a family gathering, Joe thought the world of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His family was one of his greatest joys and he always made sure to tell them, "Love you to pieces."

Memorials may be made to the Ronald McDonald House.

Christine Heasley

Christine L. Heasley, 84, of Camargo, finished her journey on Earth and returned to her Heavenly home on March 22, 2023, after an almost four-year battle with Alzheimer's. Christine was born on May 4, 1938, to Louis and Mary Wengler in Tuscola.

Christine is preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Mary Wengler; her husband, James Heasley; her sisters, Lois Wilson, Garnett Porter; her brother, Glen (Bud) Tatham; and her children, Joey, Tambrean, Jimmy and Mark Crane. Christine leaves behind her brother, Louis (Rudy) Wengler Jr.; her children, John David and Deborah Crane, Thomas and Pamela Crane, Mary Gwenn Crane and Richard Mietling, Penelope Crane and David Bergmann, Shayna Heasley and Gussie Swarms Sr.; her grandchildren, Kenneth and Bethany Heasley, Stephanie Heasley, 14



Heasley

other grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; and countless more who she considered one of her own.

For many years, Christine was a school bus driver for the Villa Grove School District. Upon her retirement, she enjoyed catching up with former students, always seizing the

opportunity to introduce them to her family. This was the perfect job for Christine as she truly embodied acceptance and love.

Christine lived a quiet, love-driven life full of simple pleasures. She found joy in her morning coffee, her best furry friend Snuggles who she'll join in Heaven, laughter over meals at Red Lobster, and a bowl of popcorn alongside reruns of Cops. Most importantly, though, she loved nothing more than quality time with the people close to her heart. A staunch believer in the importance of hospitality, love, comfort, and humor, memories with Christine will bring smiles for decades to come.

There will be a celebration of life service later in the year with details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

Lester Thompson

Lester Thompson, 91, of Ames, Iowa, formerly of Arcola died on March 14, 2023. He was born on May 20, 1931. Arcola was his home while growing up. He graduated from Arcola High School in 1949. Following high school, Lester farmed for a short time with his father and then worked at a chemical plant in Tuscola.

He met his wife, Mary, at a square dance. They square danced through their lives together after their marriage in 1951 in a country church in rural Illinois.

After 10 years of marriage, Mary and their four little boys began the college journey. Lester enrolled in Agriculture Engineering at the University of Illinois in Champaign where he finished his undergraduate studies in Mechanical Engineering. He earned his MS in Mechanical Engineering and then went onto Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., where he received his Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering. Following graduation he was employed in Tennessee before moving to Sunstrand (Now Danfoss) in Ames. He retired from Danfoss in 1999. Mary was the

assistant director of the College of Engineering Career Services. Cancer claimed her life in 1995.

In addition to his square dancing activities, Lester contributed to community service through service projects of the Kiwanis. He was a dedicated voice with the Golden K Singers and a member of the First Christian Church.

Lester is survived by two sisters, Margaret (Larry) Nagreski of Bloomington, and Linda (Bethel) Turner of Kirksville, Mo.; 14 grandchildren;

and 21 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Clyde; sister, Anna Seaman; wife, Mary; four sons, Michael, Paul, Nelson, and Doug; and daughter-in-law, Annise.

Graveside services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, at the Arcola Cemetery with Pastor Brent Budd officiating. Shrader Funeral Home, Arcola, is assisting the family with arrangements.

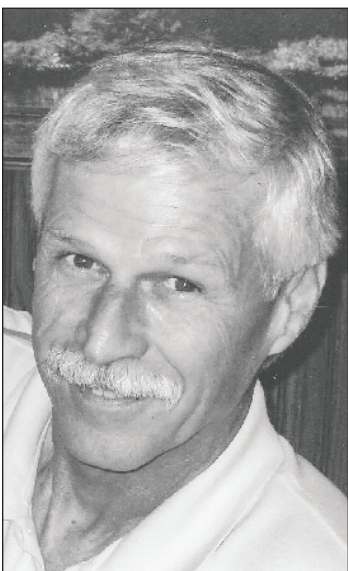
Online condolences to the family may be shared at www.hilligossshraderfh.com.

Steve Sanderson

There will be a celebration of life gathering for Steve Sanderson at the Moose Lodge, 807 E. Southline Road, Tuscola, on April 29, from 1-5 p.m. (Full obituary was in the Jan. 4 edition.)

The gathering will be informal, as those who knew Steve, will understand this is what he would want.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Tuscola Moose Lodge or donor's choice.



Sanderson

Ryan Miller

Ryan Rutledge Miller, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., formerly of Arthur, passed away at 6:31 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, in a motor vehicle accident in Emporia, Kan.

Visitation will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, at the Arthur Mennonite Church, 710 East Park St., Arthur. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, at the church. Pastor Glen Rhodes will officiate. Burial will be in the Arthur Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Ryan was born on April 4, 1994, in Urbana. He was the son of Lamar and Nadine Sue (Rutledge) Miller.

He is survived by his parents, Lamar and Nadine Miller; one sister, Natalie Borntrager and her husband Jory; and two nephews, Kollin Jeffery and Archer Ryan all of Arthur.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert and Helen (Herron) Rutledge and Adlai and Clara (Mullet) Miller.

Ryan was a 2012 graduate of Arthur High School. He attended Hesston College in Hesston, Kan., and received an associate degree in animal



Miller

sciences. He then transferred to SIU Carbondale where he graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in zoology and a minor in landscape horticulture.

Ryan loved being outdoors. He was an Eagle Scout and an avid backpacker. Some of his many adventures included hiking the Grand Canyon from rim to rim as well as hiking the Half Dome at Yosemite National Park. He even was able to travel to the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador.

Anyone that knew Ryan knew that he had a green thumb. Many nights, you could

find him out working in his greenhouse or garden. He enjoyed providing plants and flowers to his many friends and loved ones.

Ryan always enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, playing games and just enjoying time together. His kindness and gentleness brought so much joy to all of those around him.

Ryan had worked at Sailfin Pet Shop in Champaign. He worked at Scovill Zoo in Decatur for four years, and most recently at the Kansas City Zoo since December of 2021.

His passion was working with animals. Ever since Ryan was 6 years old, it was his dream to work with elephants. This dream was recently achieved when he accepted a position as an Elephant Care Specialist at the Kansas City Zoo.

Please share Ryan's love of the animals (or elephants) at the Kansas City Zoo and make a donation in his honor at www.kansascityzoo.org/form/memorial-gift or send a check for "Friends of the Zoo Kansas City" to: Ryan Miller Memorial Fund, Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr, Kansas City, MO 64132.

Dorothy Otto

Dorothy Marie Otto, 77, of Arthur, passed away at 5:55 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center surrounded by her family.

Visitations was held Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, at the Sunnyside Mennonite Church, rural Arcola. Funeral Services were held Monday, April 10, at the church. Pastor Luke Goss and Pastor Larry Rocke officiated. Burial was in the Sunnyside Mennonite Church Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Dorothy was born on December 15, 1945, in Tuscola. She was the daughter of Melvin J. and Katie W. (Schrock) Kauffman. She married Paul E. Otto on October 28, 1967, at Sunnyside Mennonite Church in rural Arcola.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Paul Otto of Arthur; three sons, Steve Otto and his wife Melissa of Arthur, Gary Otto and his wife Sarah of LeRNA, and Jeff Otto and his wife Mallory of Mattoon; six grandchildren, Kailee and Marcus Otto, Wes and Morgan Otto and her fiancé Mac Hickman

and Carter and Caleb Otto; four siblings, Virgil Kauffman and his wife Sarah of Arthur, Carolyn Kauffman of Arthur, Larry Kauffman and his wife Delores of Arthur, and Sharon Rocke and her husband Larry of Tuscola; and a sister-in-law, Debby Kauffman of Arthur.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one grandson, Lucas Otto; and one brother, Clifford Kauffman.

Dorothy was a member of the Sunnyside Mennonite Church of Arcola and Gideons International.

Dorothy retired from Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in 2011 after 26 years of service.

Dorothy enjoyed sewing and quilting. She also enjoyed baking; her cinnamon rolls were legendary. She also made homemade bread, cookies, and candy of all kinds. Some folks even shipped peanuts to her in anticipation of some of Dorothy's peanut brittle.

Dorothy and Paul have been involved in the Mennonite Relief Sale for 45 years. They founded the "Peadro Stand" in 1993; it has been a favorite staple at the Mennonite Relief Sale ever since. When Dorothy and Paul moved to Arthur, they



Otto

had a porch built onto their home so they could enjoy family, friends, and neighbors; another opportunity to share a treat, "Popcorn on the Porch" as they liked to call it.

Dorothy's family was very special to her, especially her grandchildren. She always enjoyed going to their ball games and any event they were a part of. She was proud of all of them.

Memorials may be made to the Sunnyside Mennonite Church or Gideons International.

John Nelson

John D. Nelson of Villa Grove was born on October 30, 1944, at Burnham City Hospital in Champaign to Hance H. Nelson and Madonna Barham. He passed away on March 24, 2023, in Jacksonville, Fla.

John graduated from Champaign High School in 1963, then attended the University of Illinois before he was drafted as a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne and served 13 months in the Republic of Vietnam. After returning, John met the love of his life, Jane, whom he was married to for 53 years.

He was part of the first graduating class of Parkland College in 1968, and he graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1973 with a degree in industrial technology. John was incredibly smart and worked his entire career as a mechanical engineer in areas that improved the production of steel and molten metals. After his graduation from EIU, he began working for Flo-Con Systems in Fisher. He helped the company grow quickly and eventually merge with Vesuvius Crucible. Due to his insightful analysis of prob-



Nelson

lems and providing solutions to enhance production, he was very well known throughout the steel industry, leading him to frequently travel and live in various places throughout his life (including Alabama, New York, and Indiana).

After retiring in 2013, he and his wife moved back home to the Champaign area to be with his daughter, Kristi, and granddaughters Shelby and Mikala Turner. John loved automobiles, especially Jaguars, and could fix about anything.

He owned a warehouse where he would pass time working on cars with his friends, fixing anything anyone asked for help with, and playing with his granddaughters.

John was loved by many for his smarts, sense of humor, and kind nature. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Donald Lee Nelson, Hans Christian Nelson, Ronald Ray Pellum, and Craig Allen Nelson. He is survived by his wife, Jane; daughter Kristi Nelson Cler; son-in-law, Edward W. Cler; and granddaughters, Shelby (Jake Hogan) and Mikala Turner. He is also survived by his step-granddaughters, Robyn Cler (Nathan Piwnicki), Laura (Brandon) Hauersperger, Emmaline (Michael) West, Savannah Cler; great-granddaughter, Wren Hauersperger; and sister, Donna Dittler.

His family will be hosting an open house to celebrate his life on May 13, from 2-5 p.m. at the Lake House at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Champaign Parks Foundation made in John's name to place a memorial bench.